

REMARKS

Status Of Application

Claims 9-22, 25-27, 33-35, 37-41, and 56-59 are pending in the application. The status of the claims is as follows:

claims 19-22, 27, 38-41, 56, 58, and 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,809,265 to Blair et al. (hereinafter the "Blair patent");

claims 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 25, 26, 33-35, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Blair patent, in view of IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, "Methodology for Automated Printed Selection", Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993 to B.K. Jackson et al. (hereinafter the "Jackson Bulletin");

claims 10, 13, 15, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Blair patent, in view of the Jackson Bulletin, as applied to claim 9 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,996,029 to Sugiyama et al. (hereinafter the "Sugiyama patent"); and

claim 57 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Blair patent, as applied to claim 56 above, and further in view of the Jackson Bulletin.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejection

The rejection of claims 19-22, 27, 38-41, 56, 58 and 59 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by the Blair patent, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Claims 19-22

Claim 19 requires the following:

A machine readable medium on which is recorded a program for selecting a desired image forming apparatus from a plurality of image forming apparatuses connected to a network, said program comprising:
a select step for selecting as an output destination one of said image forming apparatuses designated by a user;

a judgment step for judging whether or not said image forming apparatus set at said select step is capable of carrying out printing; and
a display step for displaying on a display, when an outcome of said judgment formed at said judgment step indicates that said image forming apparatus set at said select step is not capable of carrying out printing, installation locations of said image forming apparatuses which are capable of carrying out printing to serve as a substitute for said image forming apparatus set at said select step.

Thus, according to claim 19, the display step occurs when an outcome of the judgment formed at the previous judgement step indicates that the image forming apparatus that has been selected is not capable of carrying out printing. This is described in the specification of the present application, for example, beginning at the last paragraph of page 81 and ending at page 85, line 3.

The Blair patent does not disclose a display step as required by claim 19. Specifically, whereas claim 19 requires that a judgment of whether or not a selected image forming apparatus previously set is determined, then, in the case that the judgement is that the selected image forming apparatus is not capable of carrying out printing, installation locations of image forming apparatuses capable of carrying out printing to serve as a substitute for the previously set image forming apparatus; the Blair patent discloses that a user can select more than one output device at the same time in order to create a virtual connection between the user's workstation and the selected output devices. As such, a user of the Blair device can designate a first of the selected devices for typical usage and a second of the selected output devices that is available for use whenever the user desires. Thus, when necessary, a user can take a print job from the queue of the default printer, the first printer, and place the job in the queue of the second printer. This is described in the Blair patent at column 5, lines 1-42. Accordingly, although the Blair patent does disclose a device that allows a user to make a virtual connection between a workstation and more than one output devices at the same time (column 5, lines 1 and 2), the Blair patent does not disclose a program which includes a step for displaying on a display, when an outcome of the judgment indicates that the selected image forming apparatus is not capable of carrying out printing, installation locations of image forming apparatuses which are capable of carrying out printing to serve as a substitute for the selected image forming

apparatus. Therefore, the Blair patent does not disclose or suggest all of the requirements of claim 19, and thus, does not anticipate claim 19.

Claims 20-22 each depends from claim 19. Accordingly, because the Blair patent fails to disclose or suggest all of the requirements of claim 19, the Blair patent also fails to disclose or suggest all of the requirements of dependent claims 20-22. Thus, claims 20-22 are not anticipated by the Blair patent.

Claim 27

Claim 27 requires a method which includes a select step for setting as an output destination an image forming apparatus selected by a user; a judgment step for forming a judgment as to whether or not the image forming apparatus set at the select step is capable of carrying out printing; and a display step for displaying on a display, when an outcome of the image judgment formed at the judgment step indicates that the image forming apparatus set at the select step is not capable of carrying out printing, installation locations of the image forming apparatuses which are capable of carrying out printing to serve as a substitute for the image forming apparatus set at the select step.

As discussed in the argument for claim 19 over the Blair patent, the Blair patent does not disclose or suggest a method requiring the steps of setting an image forming apparatus, judging whether or not the image forming apparatus set at the select step is capable of carrying out printing, then displaying, when an outcome of a judgment indicates that the image forming apparatus set at the select step is not capable of carrying out printing, installation locations of the image forming apparatuses which are capable of carrying out printing to serve as a substitute for the previously set image forming apparatus. Instead, the Blair patent discloses a device which enables a user to make a virtual connection between a workstation and more than one output device such that one of the output device is designated as a default and the other output device is available for use whenever the user desires. However, according to this arrangement, disclosed in the Blair patent, the user selects both the default device and the alternate device at the same time. Thus, the Blair patent does not disclose a display step for displaying on a display,

when an outcome of a judgment indicates that a selected image forming apparatus set at a select step is not capable of carrying out printing, installation locations of image forming apparatuses which are capable of carrying out printing to serve as a substitute for the image forming apparatus set in the select step. Therefore, the Blair patent does not anticipate claim 27.

Claims 38-40

Claim 38 requires a machine readable medium on which is recorded a program for a network system connecting a plurality of computers and a plurality of input-output apparatuses wherein the program comprises a user name displaying step for displaying as items of selection the names of users regularly using the network system; a user name selecting step for selecting one of the names displayed at the user name displaying step; an input-output apparatus displaying step for displaying as items of selection only the input-output apparatuses associated with one of the users with the name thereof selected at the user name selecting step; and an input-output apparatus selecting step for selecting as an input-output destination a desired one of the input-output apparatuses displayed at the input-output apparatus displaying step.

The Office Action states that the Blair patent teaches a user name displaying step at column 4, lines 54-67. A relevant portion of column 4, lines 54-67 of the Blair patent discloses that "a map 116 of an office building is displayed and the end user 113 can move a pointing device such as a mouse (not shown) around the map to display the names 117 (e.g. Foothill Sierra 2 Bridge) of wings 118 of the map 116." Accordingly, names of users regularly using the network system, as required by claim 38, are not displayed; instead, the Blair patent discloses displaying the names of locations.

The Office Action states that Foothill Sierra 2 Bridge "is located in the network system and regularly using the network for communication of data. Therefore, Foothill Sierra 2 Bridge is a user's name regularly using the network system." This reasoning is incorrect. Even applying the teachings of MPEP 2111, which states that pending claims must be given the broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification,

Foothill Sierra 2 Bridge would not be considered a user. That is, although users who are stationed at the Foothill Sierra 2 Bridge location may be users of the network, Foothill Sierra 2 Bridge itself is nothing more than a name, a description, of an area of a building, not the name of an individual user regularly using the network. It is unreasonable to consider Foothill Sierra 2 Bridge, which the Blair patent explicitly describes as a name of a wing of a map, as a user in accordance with claim 38.

Moreover, claim 38 further requires a step wherein input-output apparatuses associated with a selected user are displayed as items of selection. This feature is distinguished and nonobvious over the Blair patent. That is, whereas claim 38 requires a step wherein input-output apparatuses associated with a selected user are displayed as items of selection, the Blair patent discloses displaying a name of a wing of a building on a map and allowing a user to select a name in order to display details of an area associated with the selected name, including the location of output devices in the area being displayed. Accordingly, whereas a user of the invention according to claim 38 is able to view and select input-output apparatuses associated with a selected user regardless of where the input-output apparatuses are located, this is not the case in the Blair device, wherein only devices in a selected location are displayed. Thus, the requirements of claim 38 are distinguished and nonobvious over the Blair patent.

Therefore, because the Blair patent does not disclose or suggest a user name displaying step for displaying as items of selection the names of users regularly using the network system, and does not disclose or suggest displaying only input-output apparatuses associated with a selected user with a name that was selected, the Blair patent does not anticipate claim 38.

Claims 39 and 40 depend from claim 38. Therefore, as claim 38 is not anticipated by the Blair patent, claims 39 and 40 are also not be anticipated by the Blair patent.

Claim 41

The requirements for claim 41 include a user name displaying step for displaying as items of selection the names of users regularly using the network system and a user name selecting step for selecting one of the names displayed at the user name displaying step. As stated previously in the argument for claim 38 over the Blair patent, the Blair patent discloses that the names of areas of a map can be displayed, however, the Blair patent fails to disclose or suggest displaying as items of selection the names of users regularly using the network system and selecting one of the names displayed at the user name displaying step. Therefore, claim 41 is not anticipated by the Blair patent.

Claims 56, 58, and 59

Claim 56 includes the requirement of a step for selecting a second printer automatically, from a plurality of printers connected to a network, as a substitute output apparatus in response to the determination that the first printer is not available. The Blair patent does not disclose this feature.

The Blair patent discloses that a user can establish virtual connections to two network printers at the same time, one as default, and one available for use whenever it is needed. Column 5, lines 35-37 of the Blair patent further states "the user can take a print job from the default printer and put it in the queue for the secondary device if the default device is in use." Thus, according to the Blair patent, a second printer is not automatically selected; instead, a user changes the assignment of the print job.

With reference to claim 56, the Office Action states the following:

"With respect to applicant's argument that second printer is not automatically selected, has been considered.

In reply: Column 5, lines 5-40, and column 5, lines 5-10, teaches that a second printer is automatically selected (reinitialized) to be used in case the default printer is in use by using virtual connections."

Column 5, lines 5-12 of the Blair patent states the following:

The workstation that the user is on will be then connected to the selected output device. Even if the user exits the network environment, and re-enters from another workstation, the virtual connection last selected will be saved and thereafter automatically reinitialized. For all practical purposes, the printer selection will remain in place until the next time the user selects an output device.

Thus, the Blair patent's reference to automatically reinitializing is unrelated to the requirement in claim 56 for selecting a second printer automatically after determining a first selected printer is currently unavailable. Instead, the Blair patent usage of automatically reinitializing is in reference to a feature of the Blair device, wherein after a user has designated a printer such that there is a virtual connection between the user's workstation and the printer, if the user is to log off or exit the network, and subsequently re-enter the network at a different workstation, the virtual connection between the user and the printer is still preserved.

Accordingly, the Blair patent still fails to disclose automatically selecting a second printer automatically, from a plurality of printers connected to a network, as a substitute apparatus in response to a determination that the first printer is not available.

As the Blair patent fails to disclose all of the requirements of claim 56, claim 56 is not anticipated by the Blair patent.

Claims 58 and 59 depend from claim 56. As claim 56 is not anticipated by the Blair patent, claims 58 and 59 are not anticipated by the Blair patent.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 19-22, 27, 38-41, 56, 58, and 59 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by the Blair patent, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

Claims 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 25, 26, 33-35, and 37

The rejection of claims 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 25, 26, 33-35, and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the Blair patent, in view of the Jackson Bulletin, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Claims 9, 11, and 12

The requirements for claim 9 include a first display step for classifying input-output apparatuses into a plurality of categories with different functions and displaying the categories on a display as items to be selected, and a second display step for displaying on the display as items to be selected only the input-output apparatuses classified in a category selected by a user.

The Blair patent does not disclose classifying input-output apparatuses into a plurality of categories with different functions and displaying the categories on a display as items to be selected.

Despite the statement in the Office Action, the Jackson Bulletin also does not disclose or suggest classifying input-output apparatuses into a plurality of categories with different functions and displaying the categories on a display as items to be selected. A portion of the third paragraph of the Jackson Bulletin discloses the following:

“Provided is a mechanism to automate selection of nearest printers suitable to print a user’s object based on the criteria set forth by the user and/or attributes of the intended object. This consists of Presentation Service that presents a Graphical User Interface (GUI) to allow a user to specify selection criteria. A Scan Service that collects the attributes and format of the object to be printed. The user’s criteria and the characteristics of the object are passed to a Selector Service to further process and select the nearest printer.”

The Jackson Bulletin does not disclose or suggest any details regarding the “criteria set forth by the user” or the “selection criteria”, and the term “attributes” is used with reference to the object to be printed. It is only the use of hindsight, which enables the very nonspecific and indistinct comments of the Jackson Bulletin to be interpreted as what is presently recited in claim 9. Absent the use of impermissible hindsight, one of ordinary skill in the art finds no reason or motivation to construe the statements in the Jackson Bulletin to disclose or suggest the specific, detailed requirements of claim 9.

The Office Action states that the modification of the Blair patent with the teaching of the Jackson Bulletin would have been obvious because “it would have allowed a user to fully automate printer selections for selecting the best fit printer, as taught by Jackson et al.” (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993) at lines 28-31” and “it would have provided users with feedback regarding the availability of printers to print the selected functions as taught by Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993) at lines 6-7.”

Firstly, both of the reasons stated above as being sufficient for motivating one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the Blair patent with the Jackson Bulletin are stated objectives in the Jackson Bulletin. Accordingly, it is the Jackson Bulletin which provides these features. Specifically, as stated at line 15 of the Jackson Bulletin “[P]rovided is a mechanism to automate selection of nearest printers suitable to print a user’s object” and as stated at line 28 of the Jackson Bulletin, the novelty of the Jackson device is the use of “object attributes and to correlate users’ terminal ID with their predefined physical location to automate the best capable printer.” Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art finds no reason to combine the Blair patent with the Jackson Bulletin to achieve the reasons stated in the Office Action because the device described in the Jackson Bulletin already meets these objectives.

Secondly, the Blair patent does not suggest or provide any teaching that would provide one of ordinary skill in the art with any motivation to modify the Blair device as proposed in the Office Action. In particular, the Blair patent operates such that a map of a

building is displayed and as a pointing device, such as a mouse, is moved around over the map, the name of areas of the building corresponding to the position of the mouse are displayed. A user can then select the name of the area of the building that is displayed and subsequently be shown a more detailed map of the area selected. From this detailed map, including the position of printer devices, a user can chose a printer from the network. Thus, the Blair device operates on the principle that a user can select a location on the map, and after viewing the printers in that location in detail, the user is then equipped to select a printer device as desired. Thus, modifying the Blair device to replace the names of areas on the map, as described in the Blair patent, with categories with function is more than an obvious substitution, and further is neither disclosed nor suggested by the Blair patent.

Moreover, with the functionality as described above, beyond the recognition that the Blair patent does not suggest classifying input-output apparatuses into a plurality of categories with different functions and displaying the categories on a display as items to be selected, it is unclear how modifying the Blair device to display categories with different functions would be feasible, as proposed in the Office Action. Specifically, because the Blair patent is grounded in a hierarchical design wherein a user selects a location, then a more detailed map of the selected location is displayed, then from the more detailed map a printer is selected, the modification of the Blair device to “replace the displayed categories with functions”, as proposed in the Office Action, is much more than a mere substitution and would require, at least, knowledge greater than ordinary skill in the art.

Therefore, both the Blair patent and the Jackson Bulletin fail to disclose or suggest classifying input-output apparatuses into a plurality of categories with different functions and displaying the categories on a display as items to be selected. As this feature is a requirement of claim 9, and absent from both of the cited references, claim 9 could not be rendered obvious by any combination of the cited references.

Each of claims 11 and 12 depend from claim 9. Therefore, as claim 9 is distinguished and nonobvious over any combination of the Blair patent and the Jackson Bulletin, so too are claims 11 and 12.

Claims 14, 16, and 17

Claim 14 requires a machine readable medium on which is recorded a program for selecting a desired input-output apparatus from a plurality of input-output apparatuses connected to a network comprising a first display step for classifying the input-output apparatuses into a plurality of categories with different pieces of user identification information and for displaying on a display as items of selection the pieces of user identification information and a second display step for displaying on the display as items of selection only the input-output apparatuses in a category corresponding to a thus displayed user identification information which is selected by a user. All of these features of claim 14 are not disclosed or suggested by either of the Blair patent or the Jackson Bulletin or any combination of the two.

The Blair patent neither discloses nor suggests modification to the Blair device to include a display step for classifying the input-output apparatuses into a plurality of categories with different pieces of user identification information and for displaying on a display as items of selection the pieces of user identification information. In fact, absent the use of impermissible hindsight, one of ordinary skill in the art finds no reason to modify the Blair device, as proposed in the Office Action, with the addition of the Jackson Bulletin. As stated in the argument for claim 9 over the combination of the Blair patent and the Jackson Bulletin, the Blair device is grounded in a specific hierarchical structure and it would require skill greater than ordinary skill in the art to modify the Blair device as proposed. Further, such modification of the Blair device would alter its operation and stated objective of providing a user with a map of an area in order to facilitate the selection of a printer.

The Office Action states that the Jackson Bulletin "teaches to use a display (User Interface, line 17) for allowing users to enter different user identification information

(code)(user specify selection criteria, line 18) and from the user identification information (user specify selection criteria, line 18), display available printers (line 17-31).” Firstly, it is unclear how this teaches or suggests a device wherein input-output devices are classified into a plurality of categories with different pieces of user identification information and for displaying on a display as items of selection the pieces of user identification information. More specifically, with both the Blair patent and the Jackson Bulletin failing to teach or suggest input-output apparatuses classified into a plurality of categories with different pieces of user identification information and displaying on a display as items of selection the pieces of user identification information, one of ordinary skill in the art finds no suggestion or motivation to provide a device capable of performing this step. Secondly, as previously stated, without the use of hindsight, one of ordinary skill in the art finds no objective reason to modify the Blair-device with the nonspecific teachings of the Jackson Bulletin, and more specifically, fails to find any motivation or suggestion in either reference to combine the two to achieve that which is presently claimed.

As both the Blair patent and the Jackson Bulletin fail to disclose or suggest classifying input-output apparatuses into a plurality of categories with different pieces of user identification information and displaying on a display as items of selection the pieces of user identification information, it also follows that both fail to disclose the step of displaying on the display as items of selection only the input-output apparatuses in a category corresponding to a thus displayed user identification information which is selected by a user. As these features are requirements of claim 14, claim 14 is, therefore, distinguished and nonobvious over any combination of the Blair patent and the Jackson Bulletin.

Claims 16 and 17 depend from claim 14. Therefore, claims 16 and 17 are also distinguished and nonobvious over any combination of the Blair patent and the Jackson Bulletin.

Claim 25

The arguments for claim 9 above are equally applicable to claim 25. In particular, like claim 9, claim 25 requires a method including a step for classifying input-output apparatuses connected to a network system into a plurality of categories with different functions and for displaying the categories on a display as items to be selected. As discussed above with reference to the argument for claim 9 over the cited references, the combination of the Blair patent and the Jackson Bulletin fails to disclose or suggest classifying input-output apparatuses connected to the network system into a plurality of categories with different functions and displaying the categories on a display as items to be selected.

Therefore, claim 25 recites an element that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the combination of the Blair patent and the Jackson Bulletin and thus, could not be rendered obvious by any combination of the two.

Claim 26

The argument for claim 14 is equally applicable to claim 26. That is, no combination of the Blair patent and the Jackson Bulletin discloses or suggests a step for displaying user identification codes on a display as items to be selected and a step for displaying on the display as items to be selected only the input-output apparatuses cataloged in one of the groups identified by one of the user identification codes selected by the user. As these elements are express requirements of claim 26, claim 26 could not be rendered obvious by any combination of the Blair patent and the Jackson Bulletin.

Claims 33-35

The argument for claim 9 above, over the combination of the Blair patent and the Jackson Bulletin, is equally applicable for the argument of claim 33 over the combination of the Blair patent and the Jackson Bulletin. More specifically, the combination of the Blair patent and the Jackson Bulletin fails to disclose or suggest classifying input-output

apparatuses into a plurality of categories having different functions and displaying the categories on a display as items to be selected. Therefore, as this feature is a requirement of claim 33 and not disclosed or suggested by the combination of the Blair patent and the Jackson Bulletin, claim 33 is distinguished and nonobvious over any combination of the Blair patent and the Jackson Bulletin.

Claims 34 and 35 depend from claim 33. Therefore, claims 34 and 35 are distinguished and nonobvious over any combination of the Blair patent and the Jackson Bulletin.

Claim 37

Claim 37, like claims 9 and 25, requires a step for classifying input-output apparatuses into a plurality of categories with different functions and for displaying the categories on a display as items to be selected. No combination of the Blair patent and the Jackson Bulletin discloses or suggests classifying input-output apparatuses into a plurality of categories with different functions. Therefore, claim 37 is distinguished and nonobvious over each of the Blair patent and the Jackson Bulletin, and could not be rendered obvious by any combination of the two.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 25, 26, 33-35, and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the Blair patent, in view of the Jackson Bulletin, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 10, 13, 15, and 18

The rejection of claims 10, 13, 15, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the Blair patent, in view of the Jackson Bulletin, as applied to claim 9 above, and further in view of the Sugiyama patent, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Claims 10 and 13 depend from claim 9, and claims 15 and 18 depend from claim 14. As stated in the above arguments, any combination of the Blair patent and the Jackson Bulletin fails to disclose or suggest the feature of classifying input-output apparatuses into a plurality of categories with different functions and displaying the categories on a display as items to be selected, as required by claim 9. Similarly, any combination of the Blair patent and the Jackson Bulletin fails to disclose or suggest classifying input-output apparatuses into a plurality of categories with different pieces of user identification information and displaying on a display as items of selection the pieces of user identification information, as required by claim 14.

Although the Sugiyama patent does disclose a device capable of indicating an error such that a scanner/printer having an error can be identified apart from other scanner/printers, the Sugiyama patent, like the Blair patent and the Jackson Bulletin, does not disclose or suggest classifying input-output apparatuses into a plurality of categories with different functions and displaying the categories on a display as items to be selected, as required by claim 9. Similarly, the Sugiyama patent also fails to disclose or suggest classifying input-output apparatuses into a plurality of categories with different pieces of user identification information and displaying on a display as items of selection the pieces of user identification information, as required by claim 14.

Therefore, claim 9 and dependent claims 10 and 13, as well as claim 14 and dependent claims 15 and 18, are distinguished over any combination of the Blair patent, the Jackson Bulletin, and the Sugiyama patent, and thus, could not be rendered obvious by any combination of these cited references.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 10, 13, 15, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the Blair patent, in view of the Jackson Bulletin, as applied to claim 9 above, and further in view of the Sugiyama patent, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 57

The rejection of claim 57 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the Blair patent, as applied to claim 56 above, and further in view of the Jackson Bulletin, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Claim 57 depends from claim 56, and as shown, claim 56 is distinguished over the Blair patent. In particular, the Blair patent fails to disclose selecting a second printer automatically, from a plurality of printers connected to a network, as a substitute output apparatus in response to the determination that the first printer is not available, as required by claim 56.

In a similar manner, the Jackson Bulletin also fails to disclose this feature recited in claim 56. Thus, there is no combination of the Blair patent and the Jackson Bulletin that can render claim 56 and claim 57 obvious.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 57 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Blair patent, as applied to claim 56 above, and further in view of the Jackson Bulletin, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

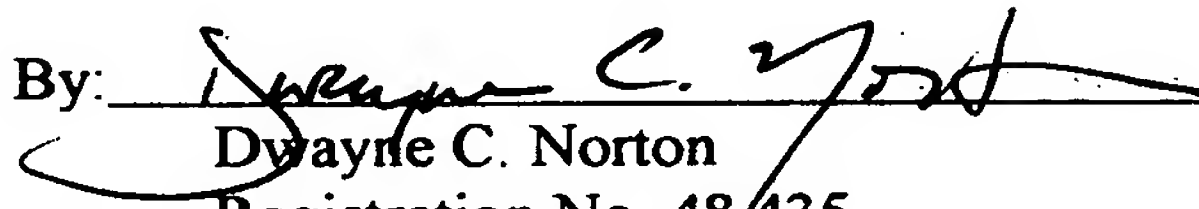
Any fee required by this document other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The following is a marked-up version of the changes to the claims which are being made in the attached response to the Office Action dated April 26, 2002.

IN THE CLAIMS:

19. (Three Times Amended) A machine readable medium on which is recorded a program for selecting a desired image forming apparatus from a plurality of image forming apparatuses connected to a network, said program comprising:

a select step for selecting as an output destination one of said image forming apparatuses designated by a user;

a judgment step for judging whether or not said image forming apparatus set at said select step is capable of carrying out printing; and

a display step for displaying on a [display] display, when an outcome of said judgment formed at said judgment step indicates that said image forming apparatus set at said select step is not capable of carrying out printing, installation locations of said image forming apparatuses which are capable of carrying out printing to serve as a substitute for said image forming apparatus set at said select step [in case an outcome of said judgment formed at said judgment step indicates that said image forming apparatus set at said select step is not capable of carrying out printing].

27. (Three Times Amended) An image forming apparatus selecting method for selecting a desired image forming apparatus from a plurality of image forming apparatuses connected to a network system, said image forming apparatus selecting method comprising:

a select step for setting as an output destination one of said image forming apparatuses selected by a user;

a judgment step for forming a judgment as to whether or not said image forming apparatus set at said select step is capable of carrying out printing; and

a display step for displaying on a [display] display, when an outcome of said judgment formed at said judgment step indicates that said image forming apparatus set at said select step is not capable of carrying out printing, installation locations of said image forming apparatuses which are capable of carrying out printing to serve as a substitute for said image forming apparatus set at said select step [in case an outcome of said judgment formed at said judgment step indicates that said image forming apparatus set at said select step is not capable of carrying out printing].